

Dear FCC Commissioners & Staff:

I will be brief: choice is the consumer's friend. When you restrict choice, you hurt consumers.

I personally use an ISP that is not a major telco -- they use major telco lines, and pay fees. If they were not allowed to do this at rates that allow them to be profitable, I could not use them as an ISP.

In my case (I am a technologist by trade) I spent months researching my DSL provider choice, and went with a small company that could not exist without laws granting them network access.

Under the current arrangements, they make money, the telco makes money, and I am happy.

If my ISP goes out of business because it cannot access the telco's network, or the telco is allowed to price it beyond my ISP's ability to make a profit of any kind, they will close, the telco will make a little more money, and I will be extremely unhappy.

Let me be clear: the physical infrastructure involved is identical, whether I use the major telco or the smaller ISP. It is the decision of the major telco to offer service that I find undesirable for my needs.

The major telco only offers dynamic IPs, their customer service staff is understaffed, underskilled and underpaid, and they place artificial restrictions on their service that prevent me from attaching more than one machine to the DSL connection. As they are a big company that serves a broad audience, this makes sense for them.

The smaller ISP, however, has a small but extremely knowledgeable staff, offers static IP and static DNS routing service, and allows me to attach all four of my machines to a single DSL connection. They are a small, nimble company aimed at a niche market, and this is good for me, as I reside smack dab in the middle of that niche market.

Please do your part to prevent restriction of choice and to prevent consumers like myself from being harmed -- keep the telco's lines as open to smaller ISPs as possible, by minimizing restrictions and setting appropriate guidelines (such as those now in place).

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Dave Owen
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